

**From:** Trent Harris  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/28/01 1:37pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been watching the Microsoft anti-trust trial and proceedings with interest since they started. I have been shocked by the blatant lies, twisted truths, and generally poor behavior of Microsoft and its executives. From the beginning they have acted as if they were being unfairly targeted, and that any protestation of innocence should be accepted as the truth.

When they were found to be a monopoly it seemed that there was hope that we wouldn't have to live in a world with Microsoft intruding into everything. Unfortunately, the recent settlement talks appear, from the outside, to promote just that. Far from being punished, it seems that Microsoft is being promoted. The worst example is the proposal to give computers and Microsoft software to financially troubled schools. This seems akin to letting a crack dealer stay out of prison by having him give free drugs to underprivileged children. In the case of Microsoft, they get to look like a good guy, and anyone who speaks out against the proposal looks like an idiot. Who can object to giving schools new computers?

Short term gains from treating Microsoft gently are being traded for long term losses. If the US truly wants business to innovate and compete, Microsoft should be punished, fined, broken up, and be forced to endure government oversight and regulation. Let them, and future monopolists, know that their business practices are unacceptable, and not in the best interests of the US consumer.

It is my hope that before any final action is taken towards Microsoft that the consequences of those actions will carefully considered for how they affect the US consumer and not how they affect the balance sheet of Microsoft.

Thank you for the opportunity to email feedback regarding this case.

Sincerely,

Trent Harris

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